I claim:

1.

A method of excavating a below grade opening having a lower floor surface at a construction site, comprising the steps of:

providing a laser transmitter for emitting a laser beam signal at a predetermined elevation;

providing a first vehicle;

providing a remotely controlled receiver for receiving the laser beam signal emitted from said laser transmitter;

connecting said first vehicle for remote control operation;

mounting said receiver to said first vehicle for vertical movement thereon to provide a depth of opening measurement;

providing a second vehicle separate from said first vehicle and having an excavator for excavating said opening;

maneuvering said second vehicle to at least partially excavate said opening;

maneuvering said first vehicle by remote control within said opening being excavated to position the receiver for receipt of the laser beam signal being sent by the laser transmitter;

remotely vertically moving said receiver and remotely obtaining an elevation measurement from the first vehicle for an area of the floor surface occupied by said first vehicle;

maneuvering said first vehicle by remote control to a new location on said floor surface, and

maneuvering said second vehicle to further excavate said area to obtain the desired depth over said floor surface.

2.

The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a graduated measurement device operable between a vertically retracted position and a vertically extended position and mounting said device to said first vehicle for operable communication with said receiver.

3.

The method of claim 2 including arranging the graduated measurement device for remote control operation between said retracted and extended positions.

4.

The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a debris member on said first vehicle for moving debris from said area of the floor surface to facilitate obtaining an accurate elevation measurement.

5.

The method of claim 4 including arranging said debris member for movement between a raised position and a lowered position.

6.

The method of claim 5 including arranging said debris member for remote control operation between said raised and lowered positions.

7.

An apparatus for facilitating excavating a depressed area in a parcel of land, comprising:

a vehicle having a motor operably connected to at least a pair of traction members and operably connected to a first receiver for receiving a signal from a remote control transmitter to actuate said motor to rotate said traction members for maneuvering said vehicle;

a graduated measurement device mounted generally vertically on said vehicle, and

a second receiver mounted to said graduated measurement device for receiving a laser beam signal from a laser transmitter to facilitate communicating the elevation of said depressed area.

8.

The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising an actuator operably connecting said first receiver to said graduated measurement device for remote control operation of said graduated measurement device between an extended position and a retracted position in response to movement of said actuator.

9.

The apparatus of claim 7 further comprising a debris member mounted to said vehicle for moving debris from the excavated parcel to facilitate obtaining an accurate elevation measurement.

10.

The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising an actuator operably connecting said first receiver to said debris member for remote control operation of said debris member between a raised position and a lowered position in response to movement of said actuator.

11.

The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said traction members are a pair of laterally spaced treads driven independently of one another to facilitate turning of said vehicle when the treads are driven in opposite directions.

12.

The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said treads define a maximum width of said vehicle of about two feet.

13.

A method of constructing an excavating system for use in excavating an opening having a below surface grade opening floor in the earth's surface of predetermined depth comprising:

providing an excavation vehicle;

providing an elevation measurement vehicle supported on driven traction members for maneuvering upon said floor and having a vertically telescopic measurement device with a laser beam target at its upper end;

providing a laser transit to be located adjacent said opening and having a laser beam transmitter thereon; and

providing remote control communications between said excavation vehicle and said elevation measurement vehicle for remotely controlling maneuvering movement of said elevation measurement vehicle and vertical movement of said measurement device from said excavation vehicle.

14.

The method of claim 13 further comprising providing a debris member on said elevation measurement vehicle for movement between a lowered position for moving debris from said earth's surface to facilitate obtaining an accurate elevation measurement and a raised position.

15.

The method of claim 13 further comprising providing said traction members as a pair of laterally spaced treads driven independently of one another to facilitate turning of said elevation measurement vehicle when the treads are driven in opposite directions.

16.

An excavating system for excavating a below grade floor surface in the earth comprising in combination:

an excavation vehicle;

an elevation measurement vehicle supported on motor driven traction members for maneuvering movement to various locations on said floor surface;

a vertically moveable motor driven vertical measurement device having a beam target on said elevation measurement vehicle;

a beam emitter to be positioned above said floor for transmitting a beam to said beam target at a precise elevation; and

remote control connections between said excavation vehicle and said traction members and said measurement device for remotely controlling their movement from said excavator vehicle.

17.

The excavation system of claim 16 wherein said traction members are moveable relative to one another.

18.

The excavation system of claim 16 further comprising a debris member on said elevation measurement vehicle for movement between a lowered position for moving debris from said floor's surface to facilitate obtaining an accurate elevation measurement and a raised position.

19.

The excavation system of claim 18 wherein said debris member is moveable between its raised and lowered positions through remote control connections between said excavation vehicle and said elevation measurement vehicle.